

Servile adhesion to ancient models cannot be required, and in the use of mediæval domestic architecture there will be found no sacrifice of any of the comforts which the wants and wishes of the present generation demand. The points to be attended to for a parsonage are—*its position* near the church, because of the associations before alluded to, and for the convenience of the clergyman. 2. *The immediate site* should not be on too retentive a soil; the non-absorbent qualities of clay render a house built thereon uncomfortable, and to a certain degree unhealthy. 3. *The materials and style* as before stated. 4. *The site* should not be always suited to the family which is intended primarily to inhabit it: it is built for succeeding generations, and therefore should not be too large for the pastor's means,—generally a good dining-room, drawing-room, study, and waiting-hall, with offices, and seven bed-rooms, at a cost of 1,100*l.* or 1,200*l.*, is sufficient. The parsonage, in its external effect, and in its internal arrangement, should be a place for calm and holy meditation, without unnecessary decorations, where want or sorrow must often in its application for pity grudge the expenditure which might have given relief. It should, on the contrary, be the permanent comfort of the locality outwardly evidencing, as well as nurturing within its walls, those devout sympathies which are peculiarly a pastor's privilege and delight.\*

#### ST. STEPHEN'S, WALBROOK, LONDON.

I WENT on the 15th to the beautiful church of St. Stephen, at Walbrook. The day being one of the most memorable I had ever known—a day of thanksgiving by a Christian people for divine mercy in the withdrawal of a plague, I felt desirous of hearing a great Christian orator on so signal an occasion. I thought the preacher there would be equal to it, and so he was, as far as human powers could make him so. For in the noble discourse he delivered, seemingly without any notes or hints, Dr. Croly never faltered once for a word, and anything grander than that oration you would look for in vain, either in Barrow, Bossuet, Blair, Massillon, or Robert Hall. What a chain of argument! What fine images! What harmony of diction!

But, Sir, when I looked up and about me, and saw that gem of architecture, in which the orator stood, how I blushed for my country! I shall not attempt to describe the precocious decay of that exquisite temple: the walls, the pillars, the ceiling, the beautiful dome itself, the whole is getting black with grime, and injured by the weather, so that the very light of heaven seems to come sparingly into the house of God, and to frown upon the barbarity of our citizens. Let me entreat you, Sir, to do something to awaken their sympathy, if not their shame.

\*. More than two years ago (vol. v., p. 273) we pointed out the miserable condition of this church, in an article which excited some attention at the time, but led to nothing, in consequence of the involved state of the parish accounts. Since then, however, if we understand rightly, the differences have been arranged, so that there seems less reason why the church should be suffered to go to ruin or remain in dirt and degradation.—ED.

**FALL OF RAILWAY ARCHES, CAMDEN TOWN.**—On Sunday morning, the 18th, seven large brick arches, being part of the East and West India Dock and Birmingham Junction Railway, in the Kentish-Town-road, fell to the ground. We had written a notice of the occurrence, but in consequence of two (perhaps erroneous) letters, are led to postpone it. It is a very serious matter, and should be inquired into rigorously. We would suggest that the coroner should summon a jury to determine the cause.

\* A paper on "Parsonage Houses," by the late Mr. Bartholomew, will be found in one of our early numbers.—*Church Chimeries.*—At the same meeting Mr. Parker stated that he had received a letter from Salisbury, with reference to the old fire-place mentioned at the last meeting, and that it appeared that the opening was originally a doorway and staircase to the roof loft, and was being restored to its proper use. He also stated that the ornamental chimneys used in domestic architecture were the best for carrying up fires in a church. The President stated that a fire-place in some remote corner of the church, with a brick flue going through the building, was the best method for warming it.

#### BOOKS.

*The Ecclesiastical and Architectural Topography of England.* J. H. Parker, Oxford and London.

THE new Part of this amplification of Rickman's notices is appropriated to Buckinghamshire, and has been prepared chiefly from the notes of Mr. W. Caveler. The publisher proposes to abandon the alphabetical arrangement of the counties, and to issue them in such order as will best consist with the making of each diocese complete, before entering on another. It will form a very valuable book for reference when finished.

*Antiquarian Gleanings in the North of England.* Drawn and etched by W. B. Scott. No. 2. London: Geo. Bell.

THIS second part has ten plates, including an ancient pulpit, formerly belonging to Jarrow Church, a pastoral staff, the frith stool of Hexham, &c. The pulpit is an interesting example, and would seem to be of foreign work; the staff is of the Early English period. Mr. Scott has scarcely the same mastery of Gothic forms as of Italian.

*Choice Examples of Art Workmanship, Mediæval and Modern.* Bogue, and Cundall. No. 1.

THE intention of this serial is to give representations of works of skill in the manufacture of metals and pottery, carvings of wood and ivory, &c. Beauty, not singularity, is to be the guide in the selection. Let the editor adhere to this, and the collection will be really valuable. The metal canopy, by George Syrelin, is fanciful and elegant.

#### MISCELLANEA.

**GAS-LIGHTING.**—The Salford Council Committee in management of the Corporation Gas Works report, that notwithstanding the reduction of charges for gas from 6*s.* and 5*s.* to 5*s.* and 4*s.* 6*d.* a thousand cubic feet (or rather in consequence of that reduction it might have been said), the gas rental shows an increase over previous returns, and "they are confirmed in their previous opinion, that a very large increase in the consumption of gas will be the result of the reduction in the price." The rental in 1848 was 12,770*l.* odds, —in 1849 it rose to about 15,000*l.* The consumption in private houses, the committee believe, would be still further and greatly increased by hiring out meters at a small quarterly charge. The populous district of Old Trafford and the west-end of the Stretford roads is about to have the benefits of the Gas Act extended to it, according to the *Manchester Spectator*.—We hear somewhat contradictory reports as to the introduction of the hydro-carbon gas into Southport. Several postponements, arising from an insufficiency of gas to fill the pipes, are said to have occasioned some disappointment, but the *Liverpool Standard* states, that though on trial the gas at first appeared very dim, it at length was got to burn with brilliancy. The lighting of Belfast under this patent depends, it seems, on the result of the Southport experiment.

—Downham-market is being lighted with gas, not only in its streets and shops, but in many of its private dwellings. The church has also been lighted.—The Central Gas Consumers' Company for lighting the City of London and its liberties, &c., is quietly mustering its forces. Notice has been given of the intention to apply for an Act of incorporation in the ensuing session of Parliament, with all necessary powers. The directors are said to have entered into formal written engagements for delivery of gas of superior purity and illuminating power into the company's gas-holders, at 1*s.* 4*d.* per 1,000 cubic feet, and 4,680 extensive consumers within the city are said to have already contracted to take 270,000,000 feet, at a maximum price of 4*s.* per 1,000. When the consumption from the company reaches 750,000,000, they promise to reduce their charge to 3*s.* per 1,000, and in either case to clear a dividend of 10 per cent.—A company of gas engineers and contractors, we observe, are offering to manufacture gas, either on a small scale or a large, so as to be saleable in all cases at 3*s.* per 1,000 cubic feet.

**PROJECTED WORKS.**—Advertisements have been issued for tenders by 11th December for the re-erection of Llanfihangel-yr-Arth-bridge, over the river Troy; by 28th instant, for the erection of an iron shed, 80 feet by 18 feet, for the Commercial Gas Company, Stepney; by 15th December, for the erection of a banking-house at Northampton; by same date, for the erection of the Northampton Exchange; by 1st December, for alterations and additions to Chelsea workhouse; by 31st December, for 10,000 feet of 3-inch York paving, and 700 yards run of 6 by 12 Aberdeen granite curb; by 30th instant, for the erection of schools at Brymbro (Wrexham), for 300 children, with teachers' house; by same date, for the erection of schools at Minera (Wrexham) for 300 children, with teachers' house; by 13th Dec., for the maintenance of about 27 miles of permanent way of the Great Western Railway,—also of 14 miles of same,—also for the maintenance and working of cranes, weigh bridges, &c., at Bristol, Bath, and elsewhere,—and for the supply and fixing of four new weigh bridges; by 25th inst., for the erection of a dwarf wall with palisades at Sheffield; by 26th, for additions to and alterations of a farm-house and offices at Barham, Hunts; by 11th December, for the supply of 12 luggage brake vans for the Great Northern Railway; by 28th inst., for cast-steel files and rasps, &c., for the East-India Company; by 12th December, for the erection of the Lincolnshire County Lunatic Asylum; and by 4th December, for cutting pipe trenches and carrying pipes for the Manchester Corporation Waterworks.

**COMPETITIONS.**—Advertisements have been issued for plans, &c., with estimates, by 20th December, for an enlargement of the Leicester workhouse,—premium 50*l.*, or commission, as advertised; and by 5th January, 1850, for a general map with design for drainage of district of St. Thomas the Apostle,—premiums twenty guineas and five guineas, as advertised.

**ERECTION OF DWELLINGS BY PARISHES.**—You state in your last number but one that the inhabitants of Lambeth are about to apply to Parliament for powers to erect habitations for the working classes, and it would seem that the proposed Act is to be a local one, not a general one, enabling all parochial bodies to avail themselves of it, without necessitating the great expense of a separate Act in each case. As the latter was the idea which I wished to convey in my communication which appeared in your paper of Oct. 6, I again address you, in order to make myself quite clear. The suggestion to which I then referred is contained in a little pamphlet by Mr. C. Cochrane, entitled "How to Improve the Homes of the People," and is as follows:—"In my opinion, we cannot have an effectual remedy without the aid of the legislature; and I would submit that it is very desirable that parish authorities should, by Act of Parliament, be invested with the power to regulate the dwellings of the tradespeople and labouring classes,—that is to say, wherever they do not reach a certain standard of essential comfort at reasonable charges, and which must be considered the standard of civilization, or of a fit social state: then the parish authorities should have the right to erect or lease houses, to let out to the tradespeople and working classes, and the profit, after the payment of rent and taxes, ought to be for the benefit of the parish. I know there are many thousands of hard-working people who would be well contented if the standard of fit human habitations were regulated by the state of the dwellings provided for the monkeys at the Zoological Gardens—for not only are they clean, spacious, and airy, but they are carefully kept cool in summer and warm in winter. Indeed, I think I may venture to say that large numbers would rest contented if they could have secured to them the same accommodation as is provided in the spacious and well-cleaned dens of the lions, or even the bears in these gardens."—A LONDONER.

**PROPOSED NATIONAL GALLERY FOR SCOTLAND.**—We understand that Mr. Playfair's final plans for the contemplated National Gallery to be erected in Edinburgh, have been transmitted to the Lords of the Treasury. The design is said to be Grecian, and the site of the structure will be south-east of the Royal Institution.